

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at least one packet; [[and]]

~~disposing of the received at least one packet in response to a walk of~~ accessing a

Hash Table, based upon information included in the at least one packet,
wherein

the Hash Table is balanced,

the Hash Table ~~is configured to store~~ stores Binary Comparison Trees, and

the Hash Table ~~is configured to encode~~ an Access Control List; and

disposing of the at least one packet, based upon the Access Control list encoded in
the Hash Table.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said disposing of the received at least one packet ~~in response to a walk of the Hash Table~~ further includes:

constructing a hash table index value from one or more bit positions, within the
received at least one packet, pointed at by one or more pointers of a Hash-
Table-Balancing Bit Selection Vector; and

walking a binary comparison tree, stored within the Hash Table, associated with
the constructed hash table index value.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
converting the Access Control List to the Hash Table.